

Amendments to the Specification:

*J.C.
Haddot*
Please replace paragraph [0064] as shown in the published application
[lines 10-21]
consistent with page 15, ~~line 14~~ of the original specification as filed:

[0064] Referring again to FIG. 12, the top surface of the filter media bed 60 includes space 62 (see also FIGS. 24 2-4) that is open and untouched by the upper perforated plate. In such embodiment, the upper filter media zone 60A remains uncompressed by not only the housing 25, but also avoids external top to down compression from the upper plate 30 because of spacing 62. It will also be appreciated that the initial compression with relatively uncompressed upper filter media bed 60A with an open surface and the compressed lower filter media bed 60B will result in greater particulate penetration than if the upper filter media bed 60A were compressed or the entire bed were compressed. Finer particulates may therefore be captured in the lower media bed 60B as greater penetration is achieved. It is thus an object of the present invention to maximize fluid filtering efficiency.